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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

[Item#1](#)
Biosecurity Can Reinvigorate the U.S.-Japan Relationship. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Masamichi Minehata. April 7, 2011.

Just as the nuclear revolution profoundly affected international security in the 20th century, biotechnology, and the life sciences more broadly, with their growing capacity to understand and

manipulate fundamental life processes, will have a profound impact on security in the 21st century. This offers great benefits as a means of responding to societal challenges related to public health, medicine, agriculture, and energy development. This is especially critical in the Asia-Pacific region, home to rapidly developing biotechnology industries, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://csis.org/files/publication/pac1121.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#2

China Bubble: Empty Mega Mall and Million Dollar Pooch. YaleGlobal. Vikram Mansharamani. April 6, 2011.

China remains one of the world's fastest growing economies, yet numerous signs point to a speculative mania underway. While investors anticipate China's economic growth to continue apace at 8 percent, reinforcing the flurry of demand, easy money and excessive building, a slowdown to 5 percent is not outlandish, explains Vikram Mansharamani. A slowdown would have global ramifications, as commodity markets, finance and shipping industries, suppliers in emerging markets, multinational corporations and borrowers like the U.S. Treasury all count on thriving business growth in China. Like the Dutch tulip dealers of the 1600s or the U.S. mortgage bankers and property brokers of 2006, investors with a stake in China insist, "This time it's different." But as pointed out by investor and Yale alum John Templeton, the four words can be the most expensive in the English language.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-bubble-million-dollar-pooch> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Civil War at 150: Still Relevant, Still Divisive. Pew Center for the People & the Press. April 8, 2011.

As the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War approaches, most Americans say the war between the North and South is still relevant to American politics and public life today. More than half of Americans (56%) say the Civil War is still relevant, according to the latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 30-April 3 among 1,507 adults. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) say the Civil War is important historically but has little current relevance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1958/civil-war-still-relevant-and-divisive-praise-confederate-leaders-flag> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Deconstructing Structural Unemployment. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt and Kris Warner. March 2011.

Some economic observers argue "structural unemployment" has increased in the wake of the Great Recession, but the paper finds little support for either of two arguments that suggest that structural unemployment has been on the rise. The first argument focuses on the large increase in unemployment

among construction workers. The second argument is that falling house prices have reduced the mobility of unemployed workers, creating a "house lock" in which unemployed workers, who would otherwise relocate to regions with jobs, are stuck in high unemployment areas.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/dws-2011-03.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

Item#5

Democracy Promotion and the Obama Doctrine. Council on Foreign Relations. Larry Diamond. April 8, 2011.

President Obama is right to balance U.S. national interests with democracy promotion in dealing with the Middle East, intervening in select cases and standing behind democracy advocates in others, says Larry Diamond.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/us-strategy-and-politics/democracy-promotion-obama-doctrine/p24621> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

The Gender Wage Gap 2010. Institute for Women's Policy Research. April 2011.

As Equal Pay Day draws nearer, it is important to remember that pay inequity is not just a women's issue; families, communities, and the economy as a whole suffer when women still take home a fraction of men's earnings. And, according to findings in the report, the wage gap is widest for personal financial advisors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.iwpr.org/> [HTML format with links].

Item#7

Measuring Disaster Preparedness: FEMA Has Made Limited Progress in Assessing National Capabilities. U.S. Government Accountability Office. March 17, 2011.

According to the report, DHS and FEMA have implemented a number of efforts with the goal of measuring preparedness by assessing capabilities and addressing related challenges, but success has been limited. DHS first developed plans to measure preparedness by assessing capabilities, but did not fully implement those plans. GAO reported in October 2010 that FEMA had enhanced its plan with milestones in response to GAO's prior recommendation and that officials said they had an ongoing effort to develop measures for target capabilities--as planning guidance to assist in state and local assessments, rather than as requirements for measuring preparedness by assessing capabilities; FEMA officials had not yet determined how they plan to revise the list.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11260t.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#8

The New Bottom Billion: What If Most of the World's Poor Live in Middle-Income Countries? Center for Global Development. Andy Sumner. March 24, 2011.

Most of the world's poor no longer live in low-income countries. An estimated 960 million poor people, a new bottom billion, live in middle-income countries, a result of the graduation of several populous countries from low-income status. That is good news, but it has repercussions. Donors will have to change the way they think about poverty alleviation. They should design development aid to benefit poor people, not just poor countries, keep supporting middle-income countries, think beyond traditional aid to craft coherent development policies, and work to help create space for more inclusive policy processes in new and old MICs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424922> [HTML format with links].

Item#9

The Possibilities for Global Poverty Reduction Using Revenues from Global Carbon Pricing. National Bureau of Economic Research. James B. Davies, Xiaojun Shi, and John Whalley. March 2011.

Global carbon pricing can yield revenues which are large enough to create significant global pro-poor redistributive opportunities. The authors analyze alternative multidecade growth trajectories for major global economies with carbon tax rates designed to stabilize emissions in the presence of both continued country growth and autonomous energy use efficiency improvement. In the case analysis, revenues from globally internalizing carbon pricing rise to 7% and then fall to 5% of gross world product. High growth in India and China is the major equalizing force globally over time, but the incremental redistributive effects that can be achieved using global carbon pricing revenues are large both in absolute and relative terms. Revenues from carbon pricing depend on growth and energy efficiency improvement parameters as well as on the price elasticity of demand for fossil fuels.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w16878.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].